

Conservationists Purchase 3,000 Acres of Upper Truckee River Watershed

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Jeff DeLong, Reno Gazette Journal

Conservationists today announced a deal that will protect 3,000 acres of the upper Truckee River watershed, with the Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows area to be opened for public use next spring.



Note: Through its Prop. 84 grant program, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy awarded \$1 million to both Webber Lake and Independence Lake acquisition projects.

Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows.

The \$8 million acquisition was disclosed by the Truckee Donner Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land. The organizations bought the property from Clifton and Barbara Johnson, whose family has owned it for more than a century.

"This property has it all," said Perry Norris, executive director of the Truckee Donner Land Trust. It includes 1,900 acres of pristine sub-alpine meadow and the Webber Lake Hotel -- one of the oldest standing structures in the region -- as well as critical wildlife habitat, Norris said.

The deal is the latest in a string of public acquisitions in the watershed totaling 14,000 acres over the last five years. Others include Independence Lake, Perazzo Meadows, Webber Falls and the Mt. Lola trail.